

## **2010 Town Meeting Summary of Proposed Ordinances and Amendments**

**Article 4** Proposed amendments to the **Animal Control Ordinance** are intended primarily to update the ordinance so that it is consistent with state law. The proposed ordinance language:

- provides a definition of owner's control;
- makes fine amounts for running at large and dangerous dogs consistent with state statute;
- allows fees and fines to be retained in a separate account to be used for animal control purposes consistent with state statute; and
- eliminates the provision that the Selectmen sign an annual warrant since state law no longer requires municipal officers to do so, although the Animal Control Officer continues to be responsible for notifying owners of unlicensed dogs of late fees and possible court action if a dog is not licensed.

**Article 5 Shellfish Ordinance** proposed amendments:

- provide a more complete definition of "resident;"
- make it clearer that the conservation obligation must be waived or fulfilled by an existing commercial license holder; and
- reduce the amount of soft-shell clams that a recreational license holder can dig per day from two pecks to one peck.

### **Article 6 Gift Ordinance**

The Selectmen propose this ordinance so that the Board will have the authority to accept gifts valued at \$3,000 or less that do not create annual liability costs of more than \$300 rather than having to take such items to the Town Meeting for a vote by the legislative body.

### **Article 9 Proposed Sign Ordinance Amendments**

These proposed ordinance amendments provide for:

#### Section 1 Preamble

Shortened, but retains emphasis on safety, providing businesses with promotional opportunities and preserving natural beauty.

#### Section 2 Definitions

More terms are defined to enhance clarity. Includes definition of "sign" and also of "directory signs" that provide for multiple entities at a single site. Exempts "Open" flags from definition of a sign. Includes structure in definition of sign because some signs are a structure, but not all.

#### Section 3 Regulations

A single statement about safety considerations is incorporated here rather than being repeated throughout the ordinance. (3.2)

Lists a specific date (12/31/2014) by which non-conforming signs must be removed.

"Grandfathers" signs which are in compliance with the previous ordinance. (3.3) *There is no provision for "grandfathering" in the current ordinance.*

Businesses located on an intersection are permitted to have signs “facing in each direction from which a vehicle may approach.” (3.6.2) *Current ordinance limits all businesses to two display signs.*

Spells out the requirements for Directory Signs in situations where multiple businesses or other entities are served from a single point of access. (3.6.7) *The current ordinance makes no allowance for multiple businesses or other entities accessed from a single point.*

In cases when a real estate “for sale” sign is permitted to be placed on a public road, the ordinance no longer requires that the seller obtain permission from the property owner where the sign is proposed to be erected. (3.7.1) *This does not mean that the seller has a right to erect a sign on someone else’s property! It just takes the Town out of the equation, leaving the issue a matter between those selling the property and the owner of the property where they seek to place a sign.*

Places requirements for yard sale signs under the section covering “For Sale Signs.” (3.7.2)

#### Section 4 Standards

Changes height limit of signs from 25 to 20 feet and the limit for signs placed on buildings as 25 feet above original grade. (4.1, 4.2)

#### Section 6 Enforcement

Allows the Codes Enforcement Officer to enforce the ordinance.

#### Section 7 Appeals

Provides for appeals from procedures or ordinance requirements to be made to the Board of Appeals and spells out the requirements under which an appeal may be granted. (7.0) *The current ordinance has no provisions for appeal.*

#### Section 8 Conflicts With Other Ordinances

Specifies that, in the case of a conflict, the more restrictive provisions shall apply. (8.0) *The current ordinance does not consider such conflicts.*

### **Article 10 Proposed Blasting Ordinance – Planning Board Version**

This proposed ordinance provides for

1. permitting for projects of 300 cubic yards or less by the Codes Enforcement Office
2. Planning Board review for projects of 300 cubic yards or more
3. information to be provided in the permit application to include contractor, location, cubic yards of material, hours and duration of blast, preblast assessment of structures within 250 ft, water samples from wells within 250 ft, seismograph record
4. performance standards that include hours of blasting, water quality and quantity protection, and ground vibrations record
5. exceptions for emergency or hardship

### **Article 11 Proposed Blasting Ordinance –Board of Selectmen Version**

This proposed ordinance provides for

1. permitting for projects by the Codes Enforcement Office
2. information to be provided in the permit application to include contractor, location, cubic yards of material, hours and duration of blast
3. performance standards that include hours of blasting and ground vibrations record
4. exceptions for emergency or hardship

### **Article 12 Proposed Site Plan Review Ordinance Amendments**

This proposed ordinance provides for

1. Section 13.2 Advertisement of any and all applications in local newspaper (This is not provided for in the existing ordinance.)
2. Section 16 Minor Amendments –

- a. removes time delay for minor projects by allowing review of them by a staff review committee consisting of Codes Enforcement Officer, Town Planner, and Chair of Planning Board
  - b. Requires Newspaper advertisement
  - c. Requires Abutter notices
3. Section 17 defines and provides for appeals process of any and all projects (This is not clearly explained in the existing ordinance.)

**Article 13 Proposed Workforce Housing Ordinance Amendments**

These proposed ordinance amendments provide for

1. single lot development/remodel to be for a workforce house
2. two lot development such as duplexes to be for workforce houses
3. subdivision development for some Workforce Housing mixed in;
4. a density bonus for providing additional workforce units;
5. affordability covenants to maintain affordability in the future;
6. off-site options; and
7. administration by an outside authority to diminish the burden on town staff